

The Gay Manse  
Suffield, Connecticut

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District Of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Harold H. Davis, District Officer  
29 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.

THE GAY MANSE

Suffield, Hartford County, Conn.

Owner: Suffield School For Boys.

Date of Erection: 1742

Architect or Builder: Rev. Ebenezer Gay

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and One-half

Materials of Construction: Stone foundation (partly brick)  
Brick chimney  
Main house - clapboard sidewalls  
Sidewalls of wing - wide boards

Other Existing Records: Guide to the History and Historic  
Sites of Connecticut - pg. 334.  
Florence S. M. Crofut.

The White Pine Series -  
Dec. 1921, No. 6, Vol. 7, pg. 3.

List of Photographs:

1. Front Elevation
2. Roof Construction In Attic
3. Entrance Detail

## THE GAY MANSE

Suffield, Hartford County, Conn.

In 1742 the Congregational Church called to Suffield, Connecticut, the Reverend Ebenezer Gay of Hingham, Massachusetts to become pastor of the church. He accepted and was ordained on January 13, 1742. He brought with him his young wife who was Hannah Augier, daughter of a merchant in Providence and the list of her dowry is preserved in the Kent Library. Mr. Gay was succeeded in the pastorate by his son, Ebenezer Gay, Jr., in 1793 and during their combined pastorates of some ninety odd years, they exerted great influence on the life of the community.

When the first Ebenezer Gay came to Suffield in 1742 he built for himself a house which has since become known as the Gay Manse. It is one of the oldest houses in Suffield and is a typical example of the early New England type of gambrel-roofed houses. This type house follows the earlier type which had as its features the sharp pitch roof and the overhanging second story. The Gay Manse was one of the first gambrel-roofed houses in New England, and it may be noted that its graceful pediments, as well as the "stone-joints" of the jambs and lintels are not unlike those of the Stato House at Newport, Rhode Island. There are so few of these typical houses remaining that this relic of old Suffield stands out as a most important house of architectural value.

At present the house is owned by the Suffield School for Boys, but is not being used. It was mentioned as being considered as a proposed dormitory for the instructors of the school, but apparently this plan has been abandoned.

The second Reverend Ebenezer Gay was quite a scholar and kept a school in one room of this house. He prepared boys for their college courses, and it is not a few of these who later attended the colleges of Yale and Harvard. Tradition has it that the Town Library was kept in the Gay Manse in a room adjoining this classroom. Many of the written works and sermons of these old divines, as well as diaries of the first Rev. Ebenezer Gay covering some forty years in Suffield, are all well kept in the Kent Library and make for interesting reading for those who are interested in the old Town of Suffield which played so prominently in the history of both Connecticut and Massachusetts.

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Source of Information: The White Pine Series -  
Dec. 1921, No. 6, Vol. 7, pg. 3.  
Memorial History of Hartford County.  
Vol. 2, pg. 391.  
Guide to the History and Historic  
Sites of Connecticut - Pg. 334.  
Florence S. M. Crofut.  
Suffield Quarter Millennial,  
Pg. 156.

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Approved:

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